



Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Zarya Hernandez, and I am a resident of West Hartford, a full-time student at University of Connecticut and a proud Mexican. I am also a member of the Fight Back Committee of Make the Road CT.

I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status. It is essential Connecticut takes action to ensure and protect one of its most vulnerable and hard working communities.

I have witnessed the struggles of not having health insurance through my family. It's hard seeing the pain of someone close to me not to go to the doctors when they are sick or not have the medical services such as mental health available. Their well being matters because they are a vital part of our community. Without the hard long hours of work I have seen all of my family members contribute and pour into the community, I wouldn't know the value of community care and ambition.

It is cruel to live in a world where undocumented immigrants can donate their organs, but not be in the organ list themselves. That is unjust and we must do better to ensure everyone has access to the healthcare they need.

I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Zarya Hernandez